

December 7, 2012

# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner Bruce Lemmon addressed CLIFF (Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever) offenders and visitors during a Family Unification program held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Commissioner Lemmon stressed the importance of maintaining family relationships and its correlation with recidivism. The program is coordinated by CLIFF ARS Lauren Orme.

Offenders housed at Edinburgh Correctional Facility raised \$600, through fundraisers, that were donated to The American Legion Department of Indiana Children's Education and Welfare Committee's Emergency Financial Assistance Program (EFAP). The EFAP is designed to provide immediate financial assistance to

families of veterans with minor children in the home, in order to protect the health and well-being of such minor children until more permanent aid and assistance can be obtained.

The Rockville Correctional Facility held its 6th Annual Field of Flags ceremony in honor of all veterans and servicemen and women past and present. This year, the facility was able to more than double last year's donation to the Indiana Military Family Relief Fund with a total of \$450. Thank you one and all for your continued generosity and support!

It's beginning to smell a lot like Christmas! The Indiana Women's Prison In2Work class decided to begin the Christmas season with a tree covered with edible decorations. All of the decorations were made from scratch, from the braided bread topping, to the orange, apple, grape slices and gingerbread men ornaments with peanuts and cranberry garland. (see photo right)

PEN Products Central Office staff collected and delivered a carload of food products, hygiene products, children's clothing and toys for the Westminster Neighborhood Ministries (WNM). WNM serves the near eastside of Indianapolis, operating a food pantry, preschool and after school program, as well as serving 225 families with a Christmas basket program.

Dorothy Morris is the new Wabash Valley Training Department Coordinator! Dorothy, has been on the job at Wabash for five years as a Caseworker, serving with distinction in the Youth Incarcerated as Adults unit. She brings a wealth of experience to her new job. Dorothy is the facility instructor for the PPCC (Promoting Positive Correctional Culture) and Calming the Storm. Ms. Morris is a proud graduate of the Commissioner's Experienced and Emerging Leadership Program, and received the Indiana Criminal Justice Association's 2012 Counselor of the Year Award!

The Correctional Industrial Facility had its annual visit from the Gospel Echo Ministry. Seven Mennonite volunteers along with other facility staff and volunteer offenders from the PLUS program delivered over 10,000 cookies to the offender population and staff. Each bundle contained 6 cookies, a bundle of holiday cards and a small address book. Gospel Echo Ministry is a Christ-centered ministry headquartered in Goshen, IN. Currently, 74,000 prisoners across North America study Bible courses provided free of charge by Gospel Echoes.

Staff at Westville Correctional Facility have once again proven their dedication to the American Red Cross (ARC) and shown their empathy for those less fortunate. The latest blood drive exceeded the ARC goal by 20 units, bringing in a total of 67 units. For this achievement, WCC received a special commendation by the Indiana/Ohio Blood Region. Staff cover for other staff and pull double duty to allow donors to take time from their busy schedules to give blood. "The support and teamwork among our staff remains remarkable," expressed Assistant Superintendent Mike Scott.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) celebrated the retirement of Jim Dibble, Physical Plant Director, after 28 years with the state. Dibble was presented with a plaque thanking him for his years of service. "I've worked with Mr. Dibble since I came to MCF and have found him to be a very good man and an excellent employee. The number of maintenance employees has dwindled over the years through attrition and budget cuts, but the work has continued to increase.

Dibble and his crew have always met the challenge and kept the facility running in tip-top shape. I wish him well in his future endeavors and am proud to have served the facility with him," Superintendent Mark Sevier said. (see photo left of Jim Dibble with Superintendent Sevier)

The new AVIAN System was installed at the Indiana State Prison and a demonstration was given to administrators. The system is a heartbeat detection system used to screen vehicular traffic exiting the facility. This device will detect the presence of a heart beat of a person who may be hiding in, under or within a container that may be being transported by the vehicle. The additional piece of equipment will help prevent possible escape attempts.

Lemuel Vega with Christmas Behind Bars was at the Pendleton Correctional Facility with a group of volunteers passing out Christmas sacks to offenders and staff.

